

Claims

1. A brain/nerve cell protective agent comprising a substance that suppresses a protein comprising the same or substantially the same amino acid sequence as the amino acid sequence of amino acid number 1 and after in the amino acid sequence represented by SEQ ID NO:2, 4 or 6, or a salt thereof.
2. A brain/nerve cell protective agent comprising a substance that reduces the activity of a protein comprising the same or substantially the same amino acid sequence as the amino acid sequence of amino acid number 1 and after in the amino acid sequence represented by SEQ ID NO:2, 4 or 6, or a salt thereof.
3. The brain/nerve cell protective agent of claim 2, wherein the substance that reduces the activity is a neutralizing antibody against a protein comprising the same or substantially the same amino acid sequence as the amino acid sequence of amino acid number 1 and after in the amino acid sequence represented by SEQ ID NO:2, 4 or 6, a partial peptide thereof, or a salt thereof.
4. A brain/nerve cell protective agent comprising a substance that inhibits the expression of the gene that encodes a polypeptide comprising the same or substantially the same amino acid sequence as the amino acid sequence represented by SEQ ID NO:2, 4 or 6.
5. The brain/nerve cell protective agent of claim 4, wherein the substance that inhibits the expression is a nucleic acid comprising a base sequence complementary to a base sequence that encodes a polypeptide having the same or substantially the same amino acid sequence as the amino

acid sequence represented by SEQ ID NO:2, 4 or 6, or a portion thereof.

6. A diagnostic agent for a brain/nerve cell injury, which
5 comprises an antibody against a protein comprising the same or substantially the same amino acid sequence as the amino acid sequence of amino acid number 1 and after in the amino acid sequence represented by SEQ ID NO:2, 4 or 6, a partial peptide thereof, or a salt thereof.

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7. A diagnostic agent for a brain/nerve cell injury, which comprises a nucleic acid comprising a base sequence that encodes a polypeptide comprising the same or substantially the same amino acid sequence as the amino acid sequence
15 represented by SEQ ID NO:2, 4 or 6, or a portion thereof.

8. A brain/nerve cell protective agent comprising a substance that inhibits the binding of a protein comprising the same or substantially the same amino acid
20 sequence as the amino acid sequence of amino acid number 1 and after in the amino acid sequence represented by SEQ ID NO:2, 4 or 6, or a salt thereof, and a receptor thereof.

9. A brain/nerve cell protective agent comprising a
25 substance that inhibits the cell stimulation activity of a receptor of a protein comprising the same or substantially the same amino acid sequence as the amino acid sequence of amino acid number 1 and after in the amino acid sequence represented by SEQ ID NO:2, 4 or 6, or a salt thereof.

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10. A brain/nerve cell protective agent comprising a substance that inhibits the expression of the gene that encodes a receptor of a protein comprising the same or substantially the same amino acid sequence as the amino

acid sequence of amino acid number 1 and after in the amino acid sequence represented by SEQ ID NO:2, 4 or 6, or a salt thereof.

- 5 11. The brain/nerve cell protective agent described in claims 8 to 10, wherein the receptor is a protein comprising the same or substantially the same amino acid sequence as the amino acid sequence represented by SEQ ID NO:8 or 10, or a salt thereof.

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12. A method for screening of a substance that exhibits brain/nerve cell protective action, which comprises using a protein comprising the same or substantially the same amino acid sequence as the amino acid sequence of amino
15 acid number 1 and after in the amino acid sequence represented by SEQ ID NO:2, 4 or 6, a partial peptide thereof, or a salt thereof.

13. A method for screening of a substance that exhibits
20 brain/nerve cell protective action, which comprises using a protein comprising the same or substantially the same amino acid sequence as the amino acid sequence represented by SEQ ID NO:8 or 10, a partial peptide thereof, or a salt thereof.

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14. A kit for screening of a substance that exhibits brain/nerve cell protective action, which comprises a protein comprising the same or substantially the same amino acid sequence as the amino acid sequence of amino
30 acid number 1 and after in the amino acid sequence represented by SEQ ID NO:2, 4 or 6, a partial peptide thereof, or a salt thereof.

15. A kit for screening of a substance that exhibits

brain/nerve cell protective action, which comprises a protein comprising the same or substantially the same amino acid sequence as the amino acid sequence represented by SEQ ID NO:8 or 10, a partial peptide thereof, or a salt
5 thereof.

16. A method for screening of a substance that exhibits brain/nerve cell protective action, which comprises using a nucleic acid comprising the base sequence that encodes a
10 polypeptide comprising the same or substantially the same amino acid sequence as the amino acid sequence represented by SEQ ID NO:2, 4 or 6, or a portion thereof.

17. A method for screening of a substance that exhibits
15 brain/nerve cell protective action, which comprises using a nucleic acid comprising the base sequence that encodes a polypeptide comprising the same or substantially the same amino acid sequence as the amino acid sequence represented by SEQ ID NO:8 or 10, or a portion thereof.

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18. A kit for screening of a substance that exhibits brain/nerve cell protective action, which comprises a nucleic acid comprising the base sequence that encodes a polypeptide comprising the same or substantially the same
25 amino acid sequence as the amino acid sequence represented by SEQ ID NO:2, 4 or 6, or a portion thereof.

19. A kit for screening of a substance that exhibits brain/nerve cell protective action, which comprises a
30 nucleic acid comprising the base sequence that encodes a polypeptide comprising the same or substantially the same amino acid sequence as the amino acid sequence represented by SEQ ID NO:8 or 10, or a portion thereof.

20. A method of protecting brain or nerve cells, which comprises administering a substance that suppresses a protein comprising the same or substantially the same amino acid sequence as the amino acid sequence of amino acid number 1 and after in the amino acid sequence represented by SEQ ID NO:2, 4 or 6, or salt thereof, to a subject in need thereof.

21. Use of a substance that suppresses a protein comprising the same or substantially the same amino acid sequence as the amino acid sequence of amino acid number 1 and after in the amino acid sequence represented by SEQ ID NO:2, 4 or 6, or a salt thereof, for producing a brain/nerve cell protective agent.

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